

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 159067
ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DKUX:EI
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON,JR.
AID/LEG - MR. WESTWOOD (SUBS)
AID/ASIA - MR. ADLER
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 159067

PARIS PASS OECD FOR USDEL TO INDIA CONSORTIUM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, IN

SUBJECT: BILATERAL AID TO INDIA

REF: NEW DELHI 9444; PARIS 19389

1. SULLIVAN'S MESSAGE FROM PARIS SHOULD HELP YOU PUT THE
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT LANGUAGE INTO BETTER
PERSPECTIVE FOR THE INDIANS. FRANKLY, WE HAD NOT REGARDED
THIS AS A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN VIEW OF THE LONG-STANDING
CRITICAL VIEWS ON INDIA TAKEN BY A NUMBER OF CONGRESSMEN
SINCE INDIA'S EXPLOSION OF A NUCLEAR DEVICE IN 1974. MORE-
OVER, AS SULLIVAN POINTS OUT IN HIS MESSAGE, SUCH A HEARING
IS A ROUTINE AFFAIR SINCE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE DID
NOT CONSIDER A POSSIBLE PROGRAM IN INDIA DURING THE REGULAR
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PAGE 02 STATE 159067

FY 78 YEAR BECAUSE INDIA WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE ADMINIS-
TRATION'S REQUEST.

2. IN FACT, IT IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN AT THIS TIME THAT
THE COMMITTEE WILL FOLLOW THROUGH AND HOLD A HEARING IF WE
SEND THEM NOTIFICATION OF OUR INTENTION TO PROCEED WITH AN
FY 78 PROGRAM. SHOULD THEY DO SO, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE NO

SPECIAL PROBLEMS, ASSUMING OF COURSE THAT THE PROPOSED PROGRAM IS IN LINE WITH AID'S CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE, AND AS SULLIVAN POINTS OUT, A HEARING COULD WELL PROVIDE AN

OPPORTUNITY FOR CONGRESSMEN BETTER INCLINED TOWARD INDIA THAN LONG TO VOICE THEIR POSITIVE VIEWS ON THE PUBLIC RECORD.

3. THE EMBASSY SHOULD FEEL NO HESITATION IN INFORMING THE FINANCE MINISTER OF THE ABOVE TO SUPPLEMENT WHAT YOU HAVE ALREADY INDICATED. OBVIOUSLY IT IS UP TO THE INDIANS TO DECIDE HOW THEY WISH TO RESPOND TO OUR OFFER OF AID TALKS AND WE WOULD NOT WANT TO PRESS THEM--OR APPEAR TO BE GETTING OUT IN FRONT OF THE INDIANS. IN THIS INSTANCE, HOWEVER, THEY ARE MAKING FAR MORE THAN IS WARRANTED OF A MINOR CONGRESSIONAL IRRITANT AND EMBASSY SHOULD TELL THEM SO. VANCE

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